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[illegible] of both Palestine and Trans-Jordania. Churchill was quick to answer that this was incompatible with the terms of the Mandate over Palestine. Thereupon, Abdullah invited an explanation about British policy: did it aim at the establishment of "a Jewish Kingdom west of the Jordan and to turn out the non-Jewish population?" Churchill replied unequivocally:

> There was a great deal of groundless apprehension among the Arabs in Palestine. They appeared to anticipate that hundreds of thousands of Jews were going to pour into the country in a very short time and dominate the existing population. This was not only not contemplated, but quite impossible...Jewish immigration would be a very slow process and the rights of the existing non-Jewish population would be strictly preserved.

Samuel also endeavored to dispel Abdullah's apprehensions: there was no question of setting up a Jewish Government; all religions would be equally respected; no land would be taken from any Arab; no British High Commissioner, certainly not himself, "would ever countenance harm or injustice being done to the non-Jewish population."

Abdullah was reassured. With regard to Syria, he said that he came to Ma'an merely "to keep his brother's seat warm...he had never given an order that any tribe should go out and attack the French"; all the agitation originated with the Syrian nationalists. He promised to keep Trans-Jordania quiet and gave his word of honor to abstain from any action against the French. He was not overly enthusiastic for British troops to be stationed in Amman and preferred that military assistance be given to him in the form of aerial support, as well as in British officers to train local levies.

Churchill thereupon unveiled his proposal: Abdullah would be appointed Governor of Trans-Jordania on an *ad hoc* basis for a period of six months; he would have to recognize the High Commissioner's control over his administration and accept the British Mandate. The nature of Trans-Jordania's administration would be different from that of Palestine in the sense that the Zionist clauses of the Mandate would be inapplicable; nor would the Trans-Jordanian Government be expected to promote Jewish immigration and colonization. The Emir was offered a stipend in the sum of £6,000 and military assistance, if required. In return, he was asked to guarantee that there would be no anti-French or anti-Zionist agitation, and that he would cooperate in every way to ensure peace and security in Trans-Jordania.

Abdullah replied that, after full consideration, and following consultation with his father and brother, he had decided to accept the offer and abide by the conditions. Thereafter, Churchill briefed General Gouraud about the arrangement